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London *Times*, that the roll of the institute had increased by 78 fellows, 30 associates and 68 students, and, notwithstanding the increasing stringency of the regulations, the number of candidates for examination had increased from 94 in 1906 to 150 in 1909. He believed these figures indicated that a real advance was taking place in the demand for highly-trained chemists. It was one of the chief duties of the institute to maintain a high level of training for professional chemists by demanding of candidates for its membership evidence of thorough training, and by requiring them to pass searching examinations. He yielded to no one in the advocacy of research as a part of training; there was however much training in originality of thought and experimental procedure which was not called research and much of what was called research that involved no originality in the thought or deed. He then stated that a special committee had been discussing the arrangements to be made in view of the approaching expiry of the lease of the present premises of the institute and had come to the conclusion that between £10,000 and £15,000 would have to be raised by voluntary contributions in order to provide even a modest but dignified home in which the institute could carry on its work. Dr. George Beilby, F.R.S., was elected president.

THE Colorado Desert, in southern California, is one of the most interesting and one of the most nearly rainless parts of the United States. It lies in a wide valley, the northwest extension of the great depression at whose south end is the Gulf of California. Before the overflow of Colorado River into the Salton Sea, which began about five years ago, this basin was, with the exception of Death Valley, the lowest dry land in the United States. It is also the hottest place in the country, according to the official records. Parts of the desert are wastes of shifting sand, kept in almost constant motion by strong winds. Other parts, on the borders of the Salton Sea, contain strongly alkaline areas, and in some places now covered by that sea large quantities of salt have been mined.

South of the Salton Sea, in the Imperial Valley, the soil consists of fine silt, deposited in past centuries from the overflowing waters of Colorado River. This part of the area is the scene of the spectacular and almost uncontrollable overflow which was the occasion of a special message from the President to Congress and which was closed after repeated failures only in 1907, by the Southern Pacific Company. Toward the north end of the valley in which this desert lies, for the most part below sea-level, is the Indio region, or the Coachella Valley, where underground waters have been utilized for irrigating several thousand acres of fertile land. Melons, barley and alfalfa are extensively grown on large areas, and smaller tracts have been planted in oranges, grapes, sweet potatoes and sugar beets. Date palms have been planted also, and on the agricultural experiment station farm at Mecca rare varieties of luscious dates, which heretofore have been produced only in the Arabian deserts and in the oases of northern Africa, are grown successfully. A report on the Indio region, including a sketch of the Colorado Desert, prepared by W. C. Mendenhall, has just been published by the U. S. Geological Survey as Water-supply Paper 225, which may be had free on application. The report includes a description of the geography and geology of the Colorado Desert and an account of the underground waters of the Indio region, and is illustrated by maps, sections and reproductions of photographs of interesting features of the country.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE passage of the legislative appropriation bill carrying \$982,000 for the University of Kansas, gives the university all it asked, excepting an appropriation for a dormitory.

By the will of Ellen A. Kendall, her residuary estate is given Wellesley College to found a professorship bearing her name. It is provided that if the fund exceeds \$60,000 the income of the excess shall be used to aid worthy students.

THE final settlement of the estate of Archibald Henry Blount, of England, who some-time ago made Yale University his residuary legatee, shows that the university will receive net from the estate the sum of \$328,752. In the settlement of the estate there has been paid out \$8,539 for the university's legal expenses in the matter, and about \$70,000 as an inheritance tax to the English Government.

THE Ontario legislature has passed a resolution permitting Toronto University to take advantage of the Carnegie Foundation's pension fund. The legislature of Nebraska has refused permission to the state university.

It is announced that Columbia University will establish a course in forestry leading to the degree of forest engineer. The plan will probably be put into effect next year though the special work would not begin for two more years.

A BILL has been introduced in the New York legislature amending the educational law by providing for the establishment of a State School of Sanitary Science and Public Health at Cornell University.

THREE departments of Sibley College, Cornell University—those of marine engineering, naval architecture and railway mechanical engineering—have been discontinued. This action has been nearly coincident with the departure from Cornell of the heads of two of the departments, Professors C. C. Thomas and H. Wade Hibbard. But these professors did not go because their departments had been or were to be abolished, nor was their departure the cause of the termination.

THE academy in Neuenburg, Switzerland, is to become a university.

THE Egyptian government has in view the establishment of a national university. The theological students at Cairo have recently petitioned for competent teachers of modern science.

At a recent meeting of the faculty of Wesleyan University, two committees were appointed to act with those of the trustees. One in regard to the establishment of a separate college for women has Professors Rice, Win-

chester, Harrington, Nicolson and Bradley as members; the other, which will help fix the date of the inauguration of President Shanklin, consists of Professors Rice, Winchester and Crawford.

ACCORDING to the *Umschau* there are this semester 1077 regularly matriculated women students in the German universities as compared with 140 three years ago.

At the meeting of the board of trustees of Stanford University, on March 5, the following promotions in rank to take effect with the beginning of the academic year 1909-10 were made: To the rank of professor: Frank Mace McFarland, in histology; John Flesher Newsum, in mining; Harold Heath, in zoology; Arthur Martin Cathcart and Wesley Newcomb Hohfeld, in law; James Farley McClelland, in mining engineering; Guido Hugo Marx, in machine design; Henry Waldgrave Stuart, in philosophy. To the rank of associate professor: Karl G. Rendtorff and William Alpha Cooper, in German; Lillian Jane Martin, in psychology; Raymond Macdonald Alden, in English; William Rankine Eckart, in mechanical engineering; Halcott Cadwalader Moreno and Sidney Dean Townley, in applied mathematics; Charles Andrews Huston and Joseph Walter Bingham, in law. To the rank of assistant professor: Payson Jackson Treat, in history; Mary Isabel McCracken and Rennie Wilbur Doane, in entomology; Walter Kenrick Fisher, in zoology; James Pearce Mitchell, in chemistry; Leonas Lancelot Burlingame, in botany.

DR. R. S. WOODWORTH, adjunct professor of psychology in Columbia University, has been promoted to a professorship of psychology. Mr. H. H. Woodrow has been appointed tutor in psychology at Barnard College.

DR. LUDWIG MESSER, associate professor of philosophy at Giessen, has accepted a call to the University at Buenos Ayres.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ADULTERATION AND THE CONDITION OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY AMONG THE ANCIENTS

IN an address of Mr. W. D. Richardson published in *SCIENCE* last year, attention is called